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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives receives a farewell call from Walter Habmann, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, David Agius MP, received a farewell visit from the outgoing Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Walter Habmann.

Whilst thanking the Ambassador for his service during his term as Germany's Ambassador to Malta, the Deputy Speaker noted that Malta and Germany enjoy excellent bilateral relations which are based on common interests and a strong legal framework comprising several agreements. Notwithstanding this solid relationship, the Deputy Speaker emphasised that there is still scope and room to strengthen the political contacts.

Deputy Speaker Agius recognised Germany's continued support to MEDAC, through the cooperation agreement concluded between the MEDAC and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, and stressed that this valuable contribution is crucial to Malta's efforts aimed at providing education opportunities to young and prospective diplomats from the MENA region. He also praised the German Foreign Office for the support provided by the Centre of International Peace Operations for the WPS Peace Mediation Capacity Building Programme and its offer to assist and share experience with Malta with respect to the UNSC membership.

Deputy Speaker Agius referred to the establishment of the Malta/Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group. He stated that the PFG could serve as a tool to improve the relationship between respective Parliaments as well as Members of Parliament.

Both dignitaries agreed that Malta and Germany have a mutual interest to safeguard the continued relevance of a rule-based international order especially through working closely together in the multilateral sphere to ensure the development and further consolidation of a long-lasting relationship.